

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-04 SNM-01 DODE-00 IGA-02 INR-10

CIAE-00 L-03 INRE-00 /080 W

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P 041108 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2083

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5348

AIDAC

EO 11652/ GDS

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS- AIRCRAFT FOR SNO

REF: STATE 009132

1. MISSION PRECEEDING TO DISCUSS PROAG WITH TNPd.
HOWEVER, WE CANNOT DETERMINE AMOUNT TO BE OBLIGATED UNTIL
WE HAVE REASONABLY FIRM COST ESTIMATES OF MODEL TO BE FUR-
NISHED. INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY OPS/ W INDICATES COST OF
CIVILIAN VERSION OF UH-1 H IS APPROXIMATELY \$556 THOUSAND
WHEN EQUIPPED AS RECOMMENDED BY MISSION. COST OF COMPAR-
ABLE MILITARY MODEL IS ESTIMATED AT \$410 THOUSAND, A DIFFERENCE
OF NEARLY \$150 THOUSAND. HOWEVER, DELIVERY TIME IS GIVEN AT
APPROXIMATELY 8 MONTHS FOR CIVILIAN MODEL AND 22 MONTHS FOR
MILITARY VERSION.
2. NATURALLY, MISSION WISHES TO MINIMIZE COSTS. ON THE OTHER
HAND, AN EXTENDED DELIVERY PERIOD WOULD CONTRADICT SOME OF THE
MAJOR PURPOSES WE HAD IN PROPOSING THIS ACTION. WE HAVE
ARGUED THAT BY INCREASING THE TNPd AIR FLEET AVAILABLE FOR ANTI-
NARCOTICS SUPPORT WE COULD MORE EFFECTIVELY PRESS THE TNPd TO
BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN ITS NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES,
PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTH WHERE ACCESS TO MANY LOCATIONS IS
LIMITED. IF WE NOW INFORM RTG THAT DELIVERY CANNOT TAKE PLACE
FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS, OUR ABILITY TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE WILL
BE EXTREMELY LIMITED.

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3. IDEALLY, WHAT WE WOULD LIKE IS THE MILITARY MODEL AND PRICE WITH THE LEAD TIME OF THE CIVILIAN VERSION. IN LIGHT OF HIGH PRIORITY ASSIGNED TO NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES, IS THERE NOT A BASIS TO ASK DOD TO SHORTEN THE DELIVERY TIME OF THE MILITARY MODEL? WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT THIS BE DONE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

4. IF THERE IS NOT WAY THE DELIVERY TIME OF THE MILITARY UH- IH CAN BE SHORTENED TO SOMETHING COMPARABLE WITH THE COMMERCIAL VERSION, IT WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSRY TO OPT FOR THE COMMERCIAL VERSION EVEN AT THE HIGHER COSTS. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THIS WHICH MIGHT REPEAT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE WOLD BE TO PURCHASE ONE CIVILIAN MODEL HELICOPTER WITH THE SHORTER LEAD TIME AND PROCURE THE SECOND AIRCRAFT FROM THE MILITARY LINE. THE TNPD MIGHT FIND THIS STAGGERED DELIVERY ACCEPTALE.

5. WE RECOMMEND EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE DONE TO SHORTEN DELIVERY TIME OF MILITARY VERSION OF UH-1 H TO MEET REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE. AS SOON AS WASHINGTONCAN PROVIDE FIRM ANSWER ON THIS QUESTION WE CAN PROCEED WITH FINAL NEGOTIATION AND SIGNATURE OF PROAG.
UNGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO005348
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730432/aaaahmul.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 009132
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971120
Subject: NARCOTICS- AIRCRAFT FOR SNO
TAGS: SNAR, TH, n/a
To: AID
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005